The basic criteria for granting house building loans are availability of amenities such as water supply, electricity, sanitation etc. in the Centre concerned; the age and repayment capacity of the applicant; clear and marketable title to the property; and the assignment of the Policy on life by the applicant as collateral security. The procedures to sanction loans by the LIC are constantly under review. In the recent past, the procedure has been simplified to grant loans even for purchase of flats/houses under construction; to sanction loans by creating an equitable mortgage/charge by depositing the title deeds; to dispense with legal investigation of title in case where lease deed is executed directly by a Government body; and to augment the Administrative/financial powers of the Area Managers to grant loans upto Rs. 5 lakhs to the prospective borrowers.

Roads in East Coast Areas

*157. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM:
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in laying the roads in east coast areas;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the purpose during each of the last three years; and

(c) the target date for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The Honourable Members are presumably referring to the coastal road in Tamil Nadu between Madras and Kanyakumari. This is not a National Highway but is a State road and the responsibility for developing the road is that of the State Government. The Asian Development Bank has provided a loan assistance not exceeding US $ 23.12 million to the Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Madras-Cudalore Section of coastal Road in Tamil Nadu. The financial provision for this scheme is made by the State Government in the State Budget. This work has been started by the State Government in April, 91 and a sum of Rs. 6.74 crores have been spent upto December, 91. The scheme is being implemented by the State Government who have intimated that the estimated completion date of the scheme is May, 1995.

NRI Investments in Corporate Sector

*158. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to permit the Non-Resident Indian's remittances to the corporate sector in India as is being allowed for the banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Indian companies are already permitted to accept deposits both on repatriation and non-repatriation basis. Deposits on a repatriation basis can be made by NRI depositors if the funds are placed for a period of three years and the amount to be accepted is approved by the Reserve Bank of India in individual cases. The foreign currency remittances in all such cases should be routed through the banks authoriesed to deal in foreign exchange or through the NRE/FCNR accounts of the depositor. Deposits can also be made by NRIs on a non-repairable basis